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HB 1778 HD 1 RELATING TO RESTORATION OF WAIKIKI BEACH

Statement for
Senate Committee on
Tourism, Recreation and Planning
Public Hearing - March 14, 1989

By
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HB 1778 HD 1 would appropriate state funds for the planning and restoration of the sandy beach between the Waikiki aquarium and Fort DeRussey. Our comments on this bill do not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

We strongly support the intent of HB 1778 HD 1 as it would provide funds for sand replenishment and other measures needed to restore and maintain Waikiki Beach, from the Waikiki aquarium to Fort DeRussey.

As we have often stated in our previous reviews of legislation directed at coastal processes and beach management, protection and maintenance of our coastal areas are of paramount importance to the State of Hawaii. Because coastal areas are favored sites for resort development it is essential to practice sound and informed management of these resources. The planning and restoration of the beach that would be provided by HB 1778 HD 1 is a much needed management measure for Waikiki Beach.

We note that as presently drafted, funds for this project would be provided to Department of Land and Natural Resources. It is our understanding that the Department of Transportation has responsibility for the area seaward of the shoreline where much of the restoration work would take place. Therefore, it may be more appropriate for funds to be expended by Department of Transportation.

We strongly concur with HB 1778 HD 1 and would urge that sufficient funds be appropriated to effectively implement this program.